However, after combustion in the engine, methane is converted to other compounds. There is no direct study available *vis-a-vis* use of Compressed Natural Gas as automotive fuel and related global warming.

Wet-land development Project of Tripura

1696. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has sanctioned Rs. 6.35 crores wet land development project-correction, conservation and management of Rudrasagar in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether any fund has been released so far; and

(c) if not, by when the fund would be released to Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A conservation and management plan of Rudrasagar Wetland in Tripura at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.35 crore has been received from the Government of Tripura.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 20 lakhs has been released so far.

Environment threat to Himalayas

1697. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Himalayas are under serious threat today and their glaciers are receding;

(b) if so, what is the status of environment in the Himalayas and what steps Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government visualize any real threat in distant future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Himalayas are the youngest mountain chain in the world and are yet to stabilise from the point of view of geomorphology and geology. Geological instability compounded with a complex set of biotic and abiotic factors, e.g., population pressure, deforestation, land slides, earthquakes, soil erosion, floods, water scarcity, outward migration of people and poverty have resulted in the fragility of the Himalayan ecosystem. Some studies have indicated that the glaciers in the Himalayan region are showing signs of receding.